



NORTHEAST ENERGY EFFICIENCY COUNCIL

A business association of the energy efficiency industry
Connecticut Chapter

Comments of the Northeast Energy Efficiency Council- Connecticut Chapter

Appropriations Committee Public Hearing February 17, 2009

Comments on: Governor's FY2010-FY2011 Biennium Budget Proposal
Submitted by: David Leishman, Co-Chairman

Good Evening, Senator Harp and Representative Geragosian and members of the Appropriations Committee. The Northeast Energy Efficiency Council- Connecticut Chapter would like to thank the Committee for this opportunity to testify tonight.

The Northeast Energy Efficiency Council- Connecticut Chapter (NEEC-CT) is a subchapter of the Northeast Energy Efficiency Council, which is a regional coalition of businesses and people involved in the energy efficiency marketplace.

Energy policy, both in its supply and demand—in the short and long term—is under increased scrutiny. The responsible use of our resources through innovative and sound management has reached a critical level.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation, especially in today's environment, are strategies that work and will continue to work for years to come.

The advantages of Energy Efficiency and Conservation are:

- **Immediate impacts:** Technologies can be installed literally within a month in some instances—with results showing instantly.
- **Creates thousands of jobs.** In addition to the benefits ratepayers derive from the CEEF programs, the Energy efficiency and conservation industries created and maintain thousands of jobs here in Connecticut. NEEC-CT members represent mechanical and electrical supply companies, energy services companies, mechanical and electrical contractors, lighting controls manufacturers, heating and A/C controls manufacturers, and engineering firms.

Who are these members who support the efficiency fund? It is Bernie's Appliances, Connecticut Lighting Centers, Harp Mechanical, Air Incorporated, Kaman, Applied Industrial, Lowe's, Home Depot, Best Buy, Sears, Sensor Switch (CT based) Osram Sylvania, GE, Westinghouse, MaxLite Lighting, Environmental Systems, Nationwide Connecticut (representing all the independent appliance retailers), Trane, the Connecticut Plumbing Heating, Cooling Contractors (and their 80 plus member association), the electrical

distributors and wholesalers, the energy service companies, the lighting installation and maintenance companies, and that is just to name a few.

It also includes the very hard working environmental and business groups that work on all our behalf every day, like Environment Northeast, Clean-Air/Cool-Planet, Connecticut Fund for the Environment, Manufacturers Alliance, and the Connecticut Business and Industry Association.

- **Energy Efficiency and Conservation are documented and verified.** These technologies and their claimed savings are documented and verified through tedious evaluation and examination.
- **There is greater than a 4 to 1 return on investment.** It has been stated that every \$1 invested the return is \$4 in savings that can go to economic development. In 2005 \$65 million was invested and the lifetime savings of the measures equal \$550 million. This is an 8 to 1 return on investment.
- **Millions of Tons of carbon emissions are eliminated.** One 60Watt incandescent lamp replaced with a 15 Watt Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) over its lifetime of 10,000 hours will eliminate up to 1,400 pounds of carbon emissions from being released into the atmosphere. Using 1 million CFLs this equates to a billion and a half pounds of carbon emissions.

The Conservation Fund in 1 year saves 355 million kilowatt-hours. 250 Million kWh is equivalent to:

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| • 71,282 Acres of Trees Planted | • 34,412 Cars Off the Road |
| • 115,526 Tons of Coal Not Burned | • 31,300 Homes with Electric Energy/Year |
| • 18,582,480 Gallons of Oil Not Burned | • 35,000,000 Gallons of Water Not Used |

CEEF programs are designed to reduce air pollutants released during electrical generation. In 2007, CEEF programs helped reduce sulfur oxides (SO_x), nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and carbon monoxide emissions by 440 tons per year (SO_x-336 & NO_x-104), over the entire lifetime of the measures installed.

Energy efficiency is now generally acknowledged as the lowest-cost and fastest to-deploy resource to slow the growth of carbon dioxide GHG emissions and yields positive economic impacts. During 2007, CEEF programs helped to reduce CO₂ emissions by nearly 212,000 tons.

- **Saves our fossil fuels.** That same 15Watt CFL will eliminate either 550 pounds of coal or 1 barrel of oil from being burned.
- **Saves our Natural Resources.** One new Energy Star washer saves 7,000 gallons of water a year compared to the standard washer (still available by the way). This is more water then you will drink in your lifetime. This is water also not being processed by our sewer infrastructures. And, it uses 50% less detergent and cuts the drying time in half. Just from the ENERGY STAR clothes washers purchased due to the program (2003) – there are

105,000,000 gallons of water saved every year for the next ten years – equaling 1 Billion 50 Million gallons of water.

- **Energy Efficiency is completely flexible.** Targeting a part of the grid, a section of the State, a specific end use, or the newest in technologies—energy efficiency provides the avenue to do so.
- **Connecticut's programs and infrastructure are mature and working.** Connecticut Takes Nation's Top Honor for Energy Efficiency. The American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) State Energy Efficiency Scorecard released in 2008 ranked Connecticut, along with Oregon and California, as one of the top states in the national race to adopt energy efficiency policies, programs, and technologies. The ACEEE Scorecard recognizes those U.S. states that have enacted a range of innovative standards, codes and policies geared to improving national energy security while sustaining economic prosperity and environmental quality. The ACEEE also bestowed honors in 2007 on individual CEEF programs. Five programs were recognized by ACEEE because of their effectiveness and exemplary approaches in assisting customers to improve energy efficiency in their homes and businesses.

CEEF Programs support an energy that costs less, is cleaner for the environment, creates thousands of jobs, saves Connecticut businesses and residential customers money to re-invest in Connecticut, saves our natural resources and fossil fuels, has an immediate impact with long term results, and has an 8 to 1 return on investment. Today CEEF is having a positive impact on CT's economy, environment, and electric grid.

We mention this because we not only have the ability to immediately effect the energy demand in Connecticut today—we also want to stress that the energy used and subsequent emissions released for the next ten years will be from equipment and technologies sold today.

Therefore, any dollars diverted from the CEEF equates to a tremendous amount of lost opportunity.

NEEC-CT asks that you:

1. Protect the CEEF and Clean Energy Fund from diversion in to the General Fund during FY 2010 and FY 2011.
2. Provide for consistency in administration. This model is working for Connecticut and is receiving nation recognition and awards. Keep efficiency dollars under the Energy Conservation Management Board, where they are used for programs that are real, cost-effective, and practical to support.